

# OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	FY 2003 EXPENDITURE	FY 2004 APPROPRIATION	FY 2005 REQUEST	GOVERNOR RECOMMENDS FY 2005
Defender Services	\$ 26,732,927	\$ 25,552,024	\$ 33,761,719	\$ 25,998,320
Federal Grants	0	125,000	125,000	125,000
Legal Defense and Defender Fund	1,193,698	1,215,734	1,215,734	1,216,901
Homicide/Conflict of Interest Cases	2,104,551	2,559,850	2,559,850	2,559,850
DEPARTMENT TOTAL	\$ 30,031,176	\$ 29,452,608	\$ 37,662,303	\$ 29,900,071
PERSONAL SERVICE				
General Revenue Fund	21,023,002	22,314,833	27,944,894	22,761,129
Legal Defense and Defender Fund	45,453	58,378	58,378	59,545
EXPENSE AND EQUIPMENT				
General Revenue Fund	7,814,476	5,797,041	8,376,675	5,797,041
Legal Defense and Defender Fund	1,117,067	1,157,356	1,125,876	1,125,876
PROGRAM SPECIFIC DISTRIBUTION				
Federal Funds	0	125,000	125,000	125,000
Legal Defense and Defender Fund	31,178	0	31,480	31,480
TOTAL	\$ 30,031,176	\$ 29,452,608	\$ 37,662,303	\$ 29,900,071
General Revenue Fund	28,837,478	28,111,874	36,321,569	28,558,170
Federal Funds	0	125,000	125,000	125,000
Legal Defense and Defender Fund	1,193,698	1,215,734	1,215,734	1,216,901
Full-time equivalent employees	528.95	560.13	627.38	560.13

## POLICY SUMMARY

The Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution assures that no person accused of a crime and unable to pay for legal assistance shall face trial without counsel. Established in 1982, the Office of the State Public Defender exists as a system for providing defense services to every jurisdiction within the state by means of a centrally administered organization having a full-time staff. The State Public Defender System fulfills the constitutional guarantee of legal counsel for persons accused of criminal offenses in Missouri's 45 judicial circuits (embracing 114 counties and the City of St. Louis).

Functioning as an independent department of the Missouri judicial branch, the Office of the State Public Defender is charged with providing legal defense for indigents accused of criminal offenses. The office's caseload has grown from 73,738 cases in Fiscal Year 1999 to 97,410 projected cases in Fiscal Year 2005, an increase of 32 percent.

In Fiscal Year 2004, the Office of the State Public Defender took a 15 percent cut to its expense and equipment budget. In order to both achieve greater efficiencies and adjust to this core reduction, the Office of the State Public Defender has implemented various cost saving and expense reduction strategies including:

- Reducing training to redirect funds toward mandatory costs such as bar fees.
- Eliminating dues to professional organizations.
- Eliminating pre-printed letterhead and envelopes.
- Reallocating staffing with every staff resignation.
- Reducing each office's travel budget by 15 percent.
- Refusing to accept collect calls from any sources, including incarcerated clients.

A properly funded public defender system is essential to maintain an efficient, effective, and constitutional criminal justice system. Therefore, the Governor's recommendations provide ongoing funding of \$29.9 million.

### Fiscal Year 2005 Governor's Recommendations

- \$447,463 for pay plan, including \$446,296 general revenue.